

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTIONWA PRESS REVIEW FEB 6

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

SUMMARY: PRESS FOCUSES ALMOST ENTIRELY ON GOI

POSITION ON ISRAELI POWS IN SYRIA. ACCOUNTS VARY.

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SOME REPORT GOI HAS RESOLVED TO MODIFY ITS

POSITION ON ICRC VISITS; OTHERS SAY GOI HAS REJECTED
US PROPOSAL TO CIRCUMVENT POW OBSTACLE TO
ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS. SOME POLITICAL
ANALYSTS URGE GOI TO STAND FIRM ON ITS POW POSITION.
WARNING THAT COMPROMISE WOULD EVENTUALLY ERODE
ACHIEVEMENTS MADE ON EGYPTIAN FRONT. DAVAR(ESHED)
SAYS US HAS SENT ISRAEL TROOP SEPARATION PLAN FROM
KING HUSSEIN BASED ON RETURN OF JERICHO TO ENABLE
JORDAN TO SET UP PALESTINIAN-ORIENTATED ADMINISTRATION
TO HANDLE WEST BANK AFFAIRS IN FUTURE. PRESS ALSO
REPORTS ON THIRD PHASE OF IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM CANAL
WEST BANK; UN SUPERVISION OF EGYPTIAN COMPLIANCE
WITH TROOP SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND SPECULATES
ON SUPERPOWERS "UNDERSTANDING" ON MIDDLE EAST.
END SUMMARY.

ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS

(A) AL MANISHMAR AND HAARETZ CARRY SIMILAR
ACCOUNTS THAT GOI HAS DECIDED TO MODIFY ITS POSITION. HAARETZ
SAYS: "THE GOI HAS GREED TO HOLD CONTACTS WITH THE US
GOVERNMENT ON TROOP SEPARATION WITH SYRIA BEFORE ICRC
VISITS TO ISRAELI POWS IN SYRIA. REGARDING THE POW
LIST, GOI HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION THAT IT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE
WITH SYRIA BEFORE IT RECEIVES THE LIST..IT SEEMS THAT ISRAEL'S
CONCURRENCE WITH THE US PROPOSAL OPENS THE DOOR FOR CONTACTS
ON TROOP SEPARATION WITH SYRIA, WHICH WILL REACH A PRACTICAL
STAGE DURING DEFMIN DAYAN'S AND FONMIN EBAN'S VISIT
TO WASHINGTON THE END OF THIS MONTH OR EARLY NEXT MONTH."

(B) DAVAR, JERUSALEM POST AJI AFTERNOON
PRESS REPORT OTHERWISE. HAARIV (HARIF) WRITES : "AUTHORITATIVE
GOVERNMENT SOURCES REEMPHASIZED THAT GOI HAS NOT CHANGED
ITS POSITION THAT IT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE--DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY--
WITH SYRIA UNLESS IT RECEIVES A LIST OF POWS AND BEFORE ICRC
VISITS..HOWEVER, THE GOI HAS INFORMED THE US THAT INSO FAR
AS THE US CLARIFICATION WITH SYRIA RELATES TO TACTICAL RATHER
THAN SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, ISRAEL HAS NO OBJECTION..THIS
MEANS THAT ISRAEL WILL ALSO NOT ENTER INTO TALKS WITH THE US
BEFORE SYRIA COMPLETES WITH ITS TERMS. AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES
ALSO SAID THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT HAVE PLAN TO WITHDRAW ACROSS
THE PURPLE LINE--I.E. TO A LINE INSIDE THE GOLAN HEIGHTS--
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AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ISRAEL WILL REQUEST RETENTION OF PART
OF THE ENCLAVE(OUTSIDE THE HEIGHTS) CONQUERED IN OCTOBER."

(C) MAARIV EDITORIALIZES: " IDF WITHDRAWAL
FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS HAS BECOME A NUMBER ONE PROBLEM
IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS..IT RATED FIRST IN THE GROMYKO
TALKS IN WASHINGTON; IT IS THE MAIN TOPIC OF TITO'S
TALKS IN DAMASCUS; IT IS BECLOUDING US RELATIONS WITH

SAUDI ARABIA AND IT HAS BEEN OCCUPYING THE GOI SINCE
KISSINGER RETURNED FROM DAMASCUS WITH HIS IMPRESSIONS..
ALL OF SECRETARY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CAIRO, HIS
DELICATE MEDIATION AND THE SPECIAL POSITION HE EARNED WITH
SADAT..HAS BEEN ENDANGERED BY THE SYRIAN RIGIDITY....
SYRIA IS ACTUALLY HOLDING THE WHIP..AND ISRAEL'S BARGAINING
POSITION IS DWINDLING."

(D) PRESS CARRIES FONMIN EBAN'S STATEMENT
THAT US HAS NOT PROPOSED THAT ISRAEL NEGOTIATE WITH SYRIA
ON TROOP SEPARATION BEFORE SYRIA COMPLIES WITH ISRAEL'S
DEMANDS ON POWS. EBAN NOTED THAT THERE ARE
SIGNS OF READINESS IN SYRIA TO NEGOTIATE--PERHAPS THROUGH
DR. KISSINGER'S GOOD OFFICES--ON TROOP SEPARATION.
REGARDING FINAL BORDER WITH SYRIA, EBAN IS QUOTED:
"WE ARE READY FOR AN HONORABLE COMPROMISE."

GROMYKO-KISSINGER TALKS

MEDIA REPORT WIDELY ON GROMYKO'S TALKS IN
WASHINGTON. DAVR'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WRITES: " IT SEEMS
THAT GROMYKO AND DR. KISSINGER HAVE AGREED TO TRANSFER THE
FUTURE STAGES OF THE TALKS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT
TO GENEVA TO ENABLE THE SOVIETS TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE..EVEN
THROUGH SYRIA HAS NOT BEEN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE
COMMUNIQUE..IT COULD BE PRESUMED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE
PROMISED TO INFLUENCE SYRIA TO JOIN THE TTALKS..."

ISRAELI-JORDANIAN TROOP SEPARATION

DAVAR REPORTS: "THE AMERICAN HAVE
RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO ISRAEL KING HUSSEIN'S PROPOSAL FOR
TROOP SEPARATION BASED ON JORDAN'S RECOVERY OF JERICHO
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UP TO 20 KILOMETERS FROM THE JORDAN RIVER. THE REGION
WILL BE DEMILITARIZED AFTER IDF EVACUATION. KING HUSSEIN
WANTS TO SET UP A REGIONAL JORDANIAN ADMINISTRATION
WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR WIDE PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION. THE
ADMINISTRATION WILL SERVE AS A MODEL OF FUTURE JORDANIAN
ADMINISTRATION OF WEST BANK AFFAIRS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF A PEAC SETTLEMENT...THE US NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR
REJECTS THE PLAN....."
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